

Public consultation on EU funds in the area of security

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

'A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this.' (Commission Work Programme 2018)

The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1 % of the EU's gross national income or 2 % of all EU public spending, it supports the EU's shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food supply and developing rural areas; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.

The current Multiannual Financial Framework — the EU's long-term budget — runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the [Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances](#), the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

Promoting the security of its citizens is a major objective of the EU. While many of the tools enhancing the security of all citizens lie in the hands of the Member States, this has been gradually reflected in the use of the EU budget, as well as in other forms of EU action. Security is reflected in a wide range of EU spending programmes. The Internal Security Fund has two strands, one supporting police cooperation,

crime prevention and the fight against serious cross-border crime, including terrorism and violent extremism;[1] the other focused on border management and visa policy.[2] Research and innovation programmes[3] are being increasingly directed to major security challenges such as cybersecurity. As the need for more defence cooperation has become increasingly recognised, the European Defence Fund[4] has been launched, to support cooperation along the full cycle of development of defence capabilities. The Fund will be progressively rolled out and will be used to stimulate joint research and development projects for defence equipment and technologies.

The EU has also developed a variety of tools to show solidarity through supporting the security of people hit by disasters in a variety of ways. The Emergency Support Instrument (ESI)[5] provides assistance and support in the face of natural or man-made disasters with severe wide-ranging humanitarian consequences inside the EU that can overwhelm the capacity of one or several Member States. The Commission has already proposed a major reinforcement of the EU's common civil protection capacity.[6] Finally, the European Union Solidarity Fund responds to major natural disasters by expressing European solidarity with disaster-stricken regions within Europe.[7]

Other financial programmes which support security in the EU include support to nuclear decommissioning [8] of first generation Soviet-design nuclear power plants; the Hercule Programme,[9] to help tackle fraud and corruption affecting the EU's financial interests; and the Pericles 2020 programme to tackle euro counterfeiting.[10]

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-police_en

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-borders_en

[3] The current Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (HORIZON 2020) identifies the security dimension as one of the major policy drivers with a focus area dedicated to "boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union".

[4] Preparatory Action for Defence Research and European Defence Industrial Development Programme.

[5] http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/funding-emergency-support_en

[6] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/resceu-new-european-system-tackle-natural-disasters-2017-nov-23-0_en: not part of this consultation exercise.

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/

[8] <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/nuclear-energy/decommissioning-nuclear-facilities>

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule_en

[10] https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/euro-area/euro/anti-counterfeiting/pericles-2020-programme-exchanges-assistance-training_en

About you

* 1 You are replying

- as an individual in your personal capacity
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

* 8 Respondent's first name

Marek

*9 Respondent's last name

Misak

*10 Respondent's professional email address

marek.misak@comece.eu

*11 Name of the organisation

Secretariat of COMECE (Commission of the Episcopates of the European Union)

*12 Postal address of the organisation

Square de Meeûs, 19
Brussels 1050
BELGIUM

*13 Type of organisation

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- International or national public authority
- Other

*22 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

*23 If so, please indicate your Register ID number.

47350036909-69

*24 Country of organisation's headquarters

- Austria
- Belgium

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

*26 Your contribution,

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N° 1049/2001](#)

- can be published with your organisation's information** (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

27 Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes.

- Internal Security Fund (ISF) – Police
- Internal Security Fund (ISF) - Borders
- European Defence Fund
- Emergency Support Instrument (ESI)
- Hercule Programme
- Pericles programme

28 Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to the questions 32-39 will refer.

- Internal Security
- Defence Research and Development
- Help in emergency situations

EU funds in the area of security

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds under this policy area – security – could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not important at all	No opinion
* Fighting cross-border crime, including terrorism, with more cooperation between law enforcement authorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Protection of people, public spaces and critical infrastructure	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supporting security at the external border	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoting strong cybersecurity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Enhancing cooperation with countries outside the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Providing humanitarian support in large-scale emergency situations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoting nuclear safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Supporting defence research and industrial development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Defending the EU's financial interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Other (Please give degree of importance here and fill in the question below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 30 If you have identified another policy challenge, please specify it here:

200 character(s) maximum

Promoting long-term Human Security and Sustainable Peace

31 To what extent do the current programmes/funds successfully address these challenges?

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
* Fighting cross-border crime, including terrorism, with more cooperation between law enforcement authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Protection of people, public spaces and critical infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supporting security at the external border	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoting strong cybersecurity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Enhancing cooperation with countries outside the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Providing humanitarian support in large-scale emergency situations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Promoting nuclear safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Supporting defence research and industrial development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Defending the EU's financial interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Other (as specified in the previous question)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 32 To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly large extent
- To some extent only
- Not at all
- No opinion

33 Please specify how the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels

1500 character(s) maximum

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

Many of the security challenges, such as terrorism or cybercrime, are complex and they are not confined by territorial boundaries. Therefore, the added value of EU programmes may consist in fostering cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation. In order to have a certain strategic autonomy, the EU should maintain its capacity in terms of military procurement and development of comprehensive economic and financial defence tools, in full respect for the principle of the rule of law and fundamental rights. EU funding shall take into account the increasing mobility within the EU and facilitate the daily life of citizens in terms of administration of justice. Stronger integration of security mechanisms should not be accomplished at the expense of public liberties and principles of the rule of law. In light of the multifaceted security challenges, an integrated approach needs to be taken to address them comprehensively. In line with the EU Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crisis, the respective EU funds for internal security should be better articulated with other instruments in order to enhance cross-sectoral coordination (internal/external security-humanitarian-development-trade-economic-ecological, etc...). They might involve different types of actors (civilian, military, state, non-state, civil society, Churches, religious communities, economic actors, etc..) at and across different levels (individuals, families, local communities, society, state, region, etc).

34 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable?

1500 character(s) maximum

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

Security challenges are a key concern for the European citizens. The EU funding should support the development of means to address pertinent security challenges and new vulnerabilities, particularly in the cyber realm, and fill the gaps in the needed defence capabilities in Europe, while preserving democratic practices.

The European Defence Fund should primarily focus on long-term human security and the promotion of sustainable peace in Europe and worldwide. The EU funding for defence research and technology development should fully comply with international legal obligations of both the EU and its Member States. Moreover, it should be ensured that ethically problematic technologies, including lethal autonomous weapons and weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction are banned from EU funding.

As hard security alone cannot comprehensively address the multifaceted security challenges of today, besides adequate and proportionate investment in the security and defence domain, the EU should increase its support to non-military pre-emptive peace-building initiatives. This should also include measures promoting human, socio-economic and ecological security.

Moreover, security measures, including countering terrorism and violent extremism, should be intrinsically linked to mechanisms ensuring the respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights.

35 To what extent do you consider the following as obstacles which prevent the current programmes /funds from successfully achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No Opinion
* Complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of critical mass to address the scale of the needs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances or new priorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Insufficient focus on performance and results	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Difficulty to ensure the sustainability of projects when the financing period ends	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Insufficient use of financial instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Insufficient involvement of stakeholders	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 36 If you have identified another obstacle, please specify here:

1000 character(s) maximum

As security & defence is a global, comprehensive concept, not only military actors and defence industries should be regarded as relevant stakeholders with regard to respective EU programmes. Also social, economic, development, humanitarian, etc.. actors should be included as relevant stakeholders.

37 To what extent would these steps help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No Opinion
* Better defined and more focused funding priorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Broader categories of eligible funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Simpler application and reporting procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Alignment of rules between EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Fewer, clearer, simpler rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* More flexibility of activity once funding is eligible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* More reliance on national rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

39 How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication and strengthen coherence? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes?

1500 character(s) maximum

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

In order to enhance information and access to EU funds, the unification of entry points for applicants may be considered. The entry point should then lead the applicant to relevant interlocutors for the respective EU programme. However, it should be ensured that attention for the specific needs related to different areas, e. g. protection of people, humanitarian action, cybersecurity, etc. is not lost in big "merger programmes" and that EU funding for such crucial areas is not decreased. As mentioned above in the reply to question 33, it would be desirable to strengthen effective links between various policy fields and instruments (such as internal/external security, humanitarian, development, trade, economic, social or ecological policies) with a view to fostering human security and sustainable peace environment in Europe and globally. This should lead to a more coherent articulation and better coordination between the different instruments without undermining the specificities of each tool. An intensified and more systematic exchange between the various services of the European institutions based on a shared analysis and clear long-term strategic objectives could substantially contribute to this goal.

Document upload and final comments

40 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

6c5c41e1-5b1b-4fc8-b142-b7daf269ff7b/Additional_elements_Security.pdf

41 If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

1500 character(s) maximum

Some further considerations complementing the elements provided in this questionnaire are provided in the attached document.

Contact

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Complementary elements concerning the public consultation on

“EU funds in the area of security“

Additionally to the elements provided in the relevant questionnaire, the Secretariat of COMECE wishes to highlight the following considerations:

1. Defence research and technology development

Security is perceived as one of the **key concerns for the European citizens** today. It is therefore of key importance to develop means to address **pertinent security challenges and new vulnerabilities**, particularly in the cyber realm, and fill the gaps in the needed defence capabilities in Europe. In order to properly address **cybersecurity of EU citizens and democratic principles**, the EU funding should support the development of **legal tools** in parallel with **technical** ones.

The EU Defence Fund should **primarily focus on long-standing human security and sustainable peace**, instead of being solely driven by short-term business interests of defence industries. **European taxpayers' money** should be spent in a **transparent and accountable** way in order to enhance the **long-term security of citizens** and to promote **sustainable peace environment** globally. For ensuring **democratic control**, adequate **monitoring and reporting** mechanisms should be put in place.

The EU funding for defence research and technology development should **fully comply with international legal obligations** of both the EU and its Member States. Technologies and weapons that are not compatible with the **legal standards of international human rights law, international humanitarian law** as well as of **arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation** regulations must not be supported under the EU Defence Fund.

Moreover, it should be ensured that **ethically problematic technologies**, including lethal autonomous weapons and weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction are **banned** from EU funding.

Increase of technological sophistication of weapons **tends to disproportionately affect the civilian population**. Weapons enabling **lethal actions without meaningful human control** pose **major legal and human security concerns**. Such weapons have significantly expanded violations of the **rule of law** through the practice of **extrajudicial killings** over the past decade. Moreover, the **de-humanisation** and **de-responsibilisation** in performing lethal actions raises **grave ethical questions** (cf. Caritas in Veritate Foundation: [*“The Humanization of Robots and the Robotization of the Human Person”*](#)).

In order to ensure compliance of EU funding with the above-mentioned concerns, an **advisory body** could be established which would elaborate **ethical and legal guidelines** for defence research and technology development. Being present in the field as well as having extensive experience at the academic level, **Churches and religious communities** could provide an important **contribution** in this regard.

The EU funding for security should comply with the requirements of **proportionality** and **adequacy**. In view of the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, an **adequate balance**

for allocation of resources needs to be found **without undermining other fields** of EU's External Action, notably Development cooperation.

Hard security alone cannot **comprehensively** address the **multifaceted security challenges** for the EU. Thus, besides **adequate** and **proportionate** investment in the security and defence domain, the EU should increase its support to non-military ***pre-emptive peace-building*** initiatives. This should also include measures promoting **human, socio-economic** and **ecological** security.

2. Security and the Rule of Law

Cross-border crime, including **terrorism** and **violent extremism**, are a **serious security threat** and a **concern to European citizens**. It should however be highlighted that often, these criminal actions, including terrorism, **play on people's fears** and provoke **counter-measures** that might pose a **challenge to the rule of law** and **civil liberties**.

True security must be bound with **respect for the rule of law** and **fundamental human rights**. If not ***focusing on human security***, including the enforcement of the rule of law and public liberties, merely technical security measures may allow or even lead to new conflicts.

COMECE promotes a **rights-based approach** which goes beyond the emotions of public opinion and respects the **fundamental rights of persons, families and communities** within internal EU policies as well as in relations with third countries. In the context of EU funding for initiatives addressing terrorism and other forms of cross-border crime, a particular attention should be given to the articulation of these measures with regard to the **rule of law**, the **principle of the hierarchy of norms** and the **administration of justice**.

Brussels, 23 February 2018

The Secretariat of COMECE

The **Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union** (COMECE) brings together the Bishop delegates from Bishops' Conferences of the 28 Member States. For more than thirty years now, COMECE has been closely involved in the process of European integration and sharing its reflections with EU institutions. COMECE is the Catholic Church partner of EU institutions in the Dialogue foreseen by Article 17(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Its permanent General Secretariat, based in Brussels, analyses EU policies on a day-by-day basis, striving to bring the specific contribution of the Catholic Church into the European debate.

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